cessional rate of interest by the banks to farmers and persons belonging to Scheduled Castes|Scheduled Tribes to purchase three wheeler scooters, etc.

(c) and (d) The Government have received a representation from the Disabled War Veterans (India) Regd., New Delhi for bank loans at zero or nominal rate of interest for purchase of cars fitted with disability equipments. This has been examined in consultation with Reserve Bank of India, who has reported that banks have been advised to grant financial assistance to the physically handicapped persons at the rate of interest at 4 per cent per annum under Differential Rate of Interest (DRI) Scheme for purchase of artificial limbs, hearing aids, wheeled chairs, etc. upto Rs. 2500|- provided this assistance is given alongwith advances for productive activities and self-employment ventures and that all other requirements under DRI Scheme are fulfilled. Banks have aso been advised to extend financial assistance to those handicapped persons, who may not be eligible for financial assistance from banks at the rate of interest of 4 per cent per annum under DRI Scheme, on similar terms and conditions with the modification that the rate of interest in such cases shall be the same at which the production credit is made available to them, subject to a maximum of 15 per cent per annum in case the rate of interest for production credit is higher. The rate of interest of 15 per cent per annum is much lower than the rate of interest charged by banks for consumption loans. Keeping in view the banks commitments to extend substantial advances to priority sector at concessional rates of interest, Reserve Bank of India has advised that it would not be possible to reduce further the rate of interest for loans to disabled war veterans.

Production of cotton

2589. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated production of cotton this year and what is the target for export;

(b) whether the demand for Indian cotton is increasing abroad and what is the perspective;

(c) what is the production of synthetic textiles compared to cotton textiles in all sectors at present; and

(d) whether it is a fact that synthetic textile is harming cotton growers' interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) The praduction of cotton during the current cotton year is estimated at 108 lakh bales. No decision regarding export of cotton has yet been taken.

(b) There is good demand for Indian cotton, in the Far East and Europe etc.

(c) The production of Cotton Textiles and Synthetic Textiles during 1987-88 is as follows:—

Cotton Textiles		Blended 100% Non-Cotton		
Cotton yarn (M. Kgs.)	Cotton Cloth (M. Mtrs)	Spun Yarn (M. Kgs.)	Synthetic Filament yarn (M. Kgs.)	Cloth (M. Mrs.)
1321	9400	234	146	3592

(d) No, Sir.